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U. S. CONGRESS—In the Senate yesterday, the joint resolution to amend the Constitution of the United States was made the order of the day for Wednesday of next week. The Consular and Diplomatic Appropriation bill was taken up and passed. Among other amendments it provides for the appointment of twenty-five consular pupils; raises the salary of the Consul at Nassau to \$4,000, at Lyons to \$2,000, and at Manchester to \$3,000. The gold bill as amended by the House was taken up and passed.

In the House of Representatives the bill to authorize Secretary Chase to sell surplus gold in the Treasury as amended in the Senate, being further amended so as to require the Secretary to retain sufficient gold to establish a sinking fund as previously provided for, was passed by a vote of 83 yeas to 56 nays. The bill to drop from the rolls of the army, on the 1st of April, such Major and Brigadier Generals as have not been on duty for three months continuously prior to date, was taken up, and a discussion sprang up on the several amendments offered which was continued up to the hour of adjournment.

Governor Bramlette, of Kentucky, has issued an address to the people of that State, in view of the popular excitement produced there by the enrollment of slaves for service in the Federal army. He deprecates all acts of violence, and counsels instead, that unjust and unconstitutional legislation shall be met by an appeal to the legal tribunals and through the ballot box. He adds that the mere act of enrolling the names of slaves does not affect any right of the citizens; that if any officer or soldier commits violence or wrong an accusation should be preferred against him in the manner prescribed by law, and if the offender fail to respond, he should be arrested and handed over to the civil magistrates for trial. Moreover, when officially advised of the fact, the Governor will, himself, prefer charges, and demand a court martial under the Federal constitution and in accordance with the laws.

Mr. Doolittle has introduced a bill into the U. S. Senate in relation to "purchasers of lands and tenements under sales of Tax Commissioners in the insurrectionary districts of the U. S." providing for the issuing of writs commanding the U. S. marshals to put purchasers in possession of said property immediately, for issuing patents for the lands after the time for redemption has elapsed, for securing the rights of 'loyal' lien creditors, &c.

The Italian frigate reported in a sinking condition, was, it is said, not the *Re de Italia*, but the *Re de Galeantuomo*, a heavy propeller (formerly a sailing frigate) of fifty-eight guns, which left New York on the 3d inst. The evidence of sinking is open to question.

CHRIST CHURCH.—It seems that a difficulty has sprung up, in relation to Christ Church, in this place. The following queries on the subject, signed "An Episcopalian," are published in the "Virginia State Journal":

"First—How was the vestry of this church appointed, and who are the persons comprising it? Second—What members of the vestry are members of the Episcopal Church, and are not some of them non-professors of religion?—Third—Is the church property and its management in the hands of persons identified with the Episcopal faith, and is the parsonage of the church leased by authority of the vestry? Fourth—Is it true that the rector was dismissed by the votes of three of the vestry, and is it true that their action has been arbitrated before the Military Governor, and by him approved? Fifth—Has Mr. Drumm received a military order to desist from holding services in the church, and what circumstances have led to the interference on the part of the military authorities? And, Sixth—Why have the members of the church and pew-holders not been informed of, and conferred with, in reference to the change in the rectorship, and are they to have no voice or say in the matter?"

On the 7th instant, as the steamer *Salvor*, Capt. Robinson, of the New York line of steamers, was en route for Washington and Georgetown, she collided with the Danish bark *Corinthian*, Capt. Oustline, bound for New York with a cargo of iron. The collision occurred before daylight, about twenty-two miles off Cape Henlopen. The *Salvor* struck the bark forward of the fore-rigging, and she went down immediately. The captain, two mates, one passenger and three seamen were secured from the *Corinthian*, but on account of the darkness, and the rapidity with which the bark went down, the steward, three seamen and a boy were lost. The *Salvor* was but slightly damaged.

From Memphis we learn that quite a battle occurred at Yazoo City, on the 5th instant, between the negro troops stationed there and a large force of Confederates. The latter gained possession of a part of the town, but could not hold it under the heavy fire of the Federal gunboats. A dispatch from General Polk, to the War Department at Richmond, states that the negro troops were driven entirely out of the city, and that the Confederates succeeded in destroying much cotton and in capturing many stores and quite a number of prisoners. The Confederates were subsequently obliged to retire. Their loss is set down at about fifty killed and wounded.

The "Union State Central Committee" appointed under the direction of the late "Union Convention" in this place are:—W. D. Massey, Alexandria; Thomas P. Brown, Fairfax county; W. W. Wing, Norfolk; Dr. G. F. Watson, Accomac county; Dr. J. J. Henshaw, Loudoun county; Robert B. Wood, Elizabeth City county, and ——— Humphreys, Henrico county.

A late letter from Vicksburg states that the Red river expedition has been abandoned for the present.

FOREIGN NEWS.

We have advices from Europe to the 5th instant by the steamer *Arabia*, which reached Halifax yesterday evening. There was no change in Danish affairs. The Archduke Maximilian reached Paris on the 5th and it was expected would embark for Mexico on the 25th, all difficulties having been settled. The appeal to the House of Lords in the Alexandria case has been entered for a hearing, and probably, therefore, will be taken up before the Easter vacation. Semi-official correspondence of Vienna denies the rumored warlike preparations in Venetia, and most positively declares Austria has not the remotest intention of assuming the offensive. The rumors are nevertheless repeated, via Turin.

Shaw Lefevre's speech in the House of Commons, relative to the Confederate cruisers, was strongly Northern in sentiment. He maintained that the vessels were British, and it was absurd to call them Confederate war vessels. He gave the Government credit for endeavoring to carry out the foreign enlistment act, but the act is insufficient and a remedy should be applied.

In the House of Commons, on the 4th, the Attorney General said the papers relative to the detention of the *Tuscaloosa* at the Cape of Good Hope were in preparation and would be laid before Parliament in a few days.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre called attention to the course pursued by the Confederate agents in England in fitting out war vessels and enlisting seamen, and moved for the papers on the subject. He denounced the proceedings, and regretted that the *Alabama* was not detained, and contended all such vessels should be prohibited entering British ports, and if they did, British cruisers should seize them.

The Solicitor General explained and defended the course of the Government and asserted that every effort had been made to honestly carry out the laws and maintain neutrality.

He said that vessels might be prohibited from entering British ports, and said Government was considering the subject of how they could remonstrate with the Confederate Government.

From Chattanooga, under date of March 13th, it is stated that General Smith will certainly supersede Gen. Meade in command of the Army of the Potomac. The telegram adds that General Smith's fitness for the position is cordially endorsed by Gen. Grant, who has great confidence in the ability of his subordinate.

There was considerable excitement at Washington yesterday, originating in a report that Gen. Stuart, with ten thousand Confederate cavalry, was marching upon that place. The military were unusually active; stockades were commenced around the forts, and preparations were made as if in anticipation of a strong raid.

On Monday last some slight skirmishing occurred in East Tennessee, beyond Morristown, in which it is stated that a Confederate Colonel was killed. The Confederates are supposed to be in force at Bull's Gap.

The Confederates are making preparations, it is said, for an attack on the contraband camp opposite Vicksburg.